CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for formatting a document, comprising:

dividing the document into regions;

specifying a text layer for text in a plurality of the regions;

specifying a non-text layer for the plurality of the regions; and

identifying color information for the text in the text layers.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

compressing the text layers using a first compression technique; and

compressing the non-text layers using a second compression technique.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein:

the compressing the text layer step includes using a lossless compression method for the first compression technique; and

the compressing the non-text layer step includes using a lossy compression method for the second compression technique.

4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising associating a color value with pixels in the non-text layers.

5.   The method of claim 4 wherein the associating the color value step includes specifying red-green-blue values for the pixels.

6.   The method of claim 1, further including storing the layers of the plurality of the regions in a portable document format.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying step includes specifying a uniform text color for the text in the regions.

8.   The method of claim 4 wherein the associating the color value step includes specifying background color information for the text layers.

9.   An apparatus for formatting a document, comprising:

   a module for dividing the document into regions;

   a text module for specifying a text layer for text in a plurality of the regions;

   a non-text module for specifying a non-text layer for the plurality of the regions; and

   a color module for identifying color information for the text in the text layers.

10.   The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a compression module for compressing the text layers using a first compression technique and for compressing the non-text layers using a second compression technique.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the compression module includes a module for providing a lossless compression method for the first compression technique and a lossy compression method for the second compression technique.

12. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a module for associating a color value with pixels in the non-text layers.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the module for associating the color value includes a module for specifying red-green-blue values for the pixels.

14. The apparatus of claim 9, further including a module for storing the layers of each of the regions in a portable document format.

15. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the color module includes a module for specifying a uniform text color for the text in the regions.

16. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the module for associating the color value includes a module for specifying background color information for the text layers.

17. A method for formatting and compressing information contained within a document, comprising:

dividing the document into regions;

formatting the regions into two layers, including:

specifying a text layer for a body of text having a particular color in the regions; and

specifying a non-text layer for non-text information in the regions;

compressing the layers, including:

compressing the text layers using a first compression technique; and

compressing the non-text layers using a second compression technique; and

storing the compressed layers.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the compressing the layers step includes:

using a lossless compression method for the first compression technique; and

using a lossy compression method for the second compression technique.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the specifying the non-text layer step includes specifying color information for pixels in the non-text layer.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein the specifying the text layer step includes specifying a color value for the text in the text layer.